

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

A meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWP) Water Management Strategy (WMS) Committee was held at 12:00 p.m., September 4, 2019, at the General Administration building of the San Jacinto River Authority. A notice of said meeting was posted as required by law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Hebert, Jace Houston, Yvonne Forrest, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, John Bartos

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Jim Sims for Kevin Ward, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, Aaron Abel for Brad Brunett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Bruner, Mike Turco, Mark Evans (non-voting)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Istre

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Kramer (Sierra Club) for Carl Masterson, Gene Fisseler, Paul Nelson (The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N.), Shane Porter (SJRA), Matt Barrett (SJRA), Lindsey Kovar (BGE), Veronica Osegueda (City of Houston), Sharon Citino (City of Houston), Danielle Goshen (Galveston Bay Foundation), Scott Jones (Galveston Bay Foundation)

CONSULTANT TEAM: Jason Afinowicz, Philip Taucer, Mike Reedy, Courtney Corso, Jordan Skipwith, Chris Drabek, Glenda Callaway

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Hebert welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2018 WMS COMMITTEE MEETING.

The committee passed a motion to approve the minutes of the WMS Committee meeting on March 21, 2018.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7.

There were no public comments.

5. DISCUSS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULE.

Mr. Taucer provided an update to the 2021 Regional Water Plan schedule referencing various due dates. The Committee tentatively selected October 30 for the next Committee meeting.

6. DISCUSS WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROCESS FROM THE REGION H 2021 REGIONAL WATER PLAN.

Mr. Taucer provided an update on the progress of water management strategy (WMS) analyses for the 2021 Region H RWP, including comparisons to the 2016 RWP, projected needs, anticipated WMS supplies, and details regarding advanced conservation and water loss reduction strategies.

Committee members commented that labeling savings from outdoor watering restrictions as “Regulatory” savings is confusing. Ms. Forrest indicated agreement with the 10% threshold used in the water loss reduction analysis; Mr. Hebert agreed. Mr. Kramer suggested a need for more clarity when discussing 10% water loss as a goal, as the methodology used for reducing losses does not imply that every entity will reach 10% loss by the end of the planning horizon.

Mr. Taucer also introduced the topic of drought contingency plan implementation as a potential WMS. Committee members agreed that the RHWPG meeting held earlier in the day had provided clear direction to the consultant team to bring more detailed analyses of options for this strategy type to the next WMS Committee and RHWPG meetings. Mr. Hebert and Mr. Istre voiced the necessity of maintaining a clear differentiation between the purposes of long-term conservation efforts and measures intended for contingency or emergency. Mr. Kramer suggested a review of how other planning groups have treated this option and suggested that drought contingency WMS should not be immediately ruled out for Region H.

7. DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR UTILIZATION OF REMAINING UNALLOCATED TASK 5 FUNDS AND CONSIDER MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP.

Mr. Taucer explained the existing funding allocations and remaining funds available for Task 5A and presented the Committee with the option to allocate the remaining funding towards efforts after the submittal of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). These efforts may include the review of input from stakeholders to adjust recommendations in the IPP or to add new projects not identified as of the IPP. The Committee suggested resuming discussion of this topic at a subsequent meeting.

8. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mr. Fisseler suggested considering demand curtailment or demand reduction concepts commonly used by electric providers as potential water management strategies.

9. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.